



## **Communities Sought to Participate in Brownfields Revitalization Projects**

The Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI) is seeking sites in five communities across the country to be involved in strengthening their communities through brownfields revitalization projects. The mission of the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement is to build, promote, and utilize the environmental ethic, expertise, and commitment of older persons to expand citizen involvement in protecting and caring for our environment for present and future generations. Through EASI Ambassadors, learn how EASI Senior Environment Corps (SECs) succeeded with brownfields projects, or read about the success through EASI's soon to be released document, "Involving Senior Volunteers in Brownfields Programs: A Foundation for Successful Community Involvement, Case Studies in Success," a five-year research study made possible through support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This resource tool reveals ways in which to motivate seniors and also tells of observed patterns of volunteer involvement and accomplishment. The research document helps SECs create successful, sustainable volunteer programs, and includes tips on funding sources and evaluation procedures. The document highlights case studies of and lessons learned about programs involving senior volunteers in Brownfields projects, in Wilmington, Delaware; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Cape Cod, Massachusetts; Eastward Ho, Florida; St. Louis, Missouri; and Dallas, TX.

Also, by working with an EASI Ambassador, your SEC can achieve success in helping to strengthen your community. EASI Ambassadors are volunteers who represent EASI's mission and expertise at SEC sites around the country. They can tell you of successes and guide your SEC in technical and administrative areas.

There are a variety of ways that EASI volunteers can aid in the revitalization of brownfields sites. Seniors can assist with research on the historical uses of the site, they can conduct site audits and community surveys, or they can build community support through innovative education and outreach. When it comes time to find investors and creative reuse of a site, they can help local governments attract investors and developers to sites that are being redeveloped. By using the experience, expertise and local acceptance of seniors, agencies have saved thousands of dollars and have been able to expedite projects.

For more information about EASI's Brownfields Program, or to receive a copy of the research document, please contact Melinda Hughes at [Melinda@EASI.org](mailto:Melinda@EASI.org) or at (540) 788-3274. Information can also be obtained by visiting the EASI web site [www.EASI.org](http://www.EASI.org) and following the brownfields link.